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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FACT SHEET ON POST-WAR AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
In Agriculturally Based Communities

The Problem.-- To inform farm and other rural people that their prosperity depends on the prosperity of the city and the nation as a whole, and, as part of the national efforts to provide post-war full employment, to help them with specific planning to provide non-farm jobs in rural areas.

Background of the Problem.-- It is expected that there will be more workers than needed for farming in many farm areas when war production falls sharply, plus many unemployed in towns. This will come about by the release of: (a) men and women from the armed forces, (b) people who are entirely engaged in war work, and (c) many farmers working part-time in non-farm occupations.

Rural Industries for Peace-Time Production are Needed.-- There must be work places in city industry if surplus workers are to have employment. By employing only a part of these workers in manufacturing, commercial business will be stimulated to employ the remainder.

The Community Approach.-- The Department of Agriculture in cooperation with other federal and state agencies, and private organizations like the Committee for Economic Development, has devised a procedure whereby a rural community can find out what its prospective post-war unemployment will be. The next step is to get the advice of engineers and economists to help them decide what industries to expand or establish in the community in order to absorb prospective unemployment.

The responsibility rests heavily on the community. It finances the studies and provides the committee workers who do the work. The public agencies only make technical assistance available to help them help themselves.

What the Community Does.-- In an organized way, the community asks its employers (manufacturing, commercial, farm, and public) how many post-war jobs they intend to give. Similarly, it asks its workers if they intend to work and what they expect to do. Then, by matching numbers of people against jobs, it is possible to approximate the number of prospective unemployed in the community.

Usually there will be some unemployed in prospect and a study of what consumers expect to buy after the war would be helpful in figuring out what the prospective unemployed could produce. Therefore, many communities will want to undertake a consumer survey as well as an employment survey.

Other communities will want to make some provisions for a group of local people to give help and guidance to returning men and women from the armed services, war workers, and others, in getting relocated and reemployed in the community.

The most important thing the community does is to get together capital, managerial skill, and other necessities, to create the new employment opportunities that the community will need.



What the Department of Agriculture Does. -- After a community has set up its own organization to deal with its post-war problems, it can upon request secure technical assistance in dealing with those problems. This assistance will be provided by federal and state government agencies cooperating with interested private agencies, such as the Committee for Economic Development, to the extent possible within their resources available for such work. This help will include: (1) specific suggestions on the way a community can study its post-war problems, based upon the experience of other communities which have undertaken similar studies; (2) services of economic and statistical experts to aid the Community Post-War Planning Committee in collecting and appraising the facts on its own local situation; (3) general background information on the future prospects for various industries and their suitability to the local conditions; and (4) the services of technical industrial and engineering consultants, who may be available to visit the community and aid local leaders in developing their program for the future.

The Department of Agriculture, primarily through State Planning Boards, the Land-Grant Colleges, and the nine U.S.D.A. regional post-war planning committees is arranging for technical people in the field to cooperate directly with communities.

Information Materials Available.-- Introduction--A brief outline of the community planning procedure.

RU-5, Part I--An eight-page statement suggesting an outline for community organization, which briefly describes the work of local committees and how they fit in with total community effort. It answers the question -- What does the community do?

RU-5, Part II--A 50-page detailed description of suggested forms that might be used, methods of going about the survey, and other details that will be useful to a community actually at work. It answers the question -- How does a community accomplish its purpose?

RU-5, Part III-(in preparation)-- Detailed suggestions for tabulating the information and presenting it for use in planning for employment.

RU-6--A 10-page statement outlining a simplified method of procedure for small communities. This involves less statistical fact-finding than the detailed methods outlined in RU-5, Parts I and II.

Miscellaneous materials on specific industries are being prepared as background information to anyone deciding on what industrial expansion would be suitable to a given community.

Inquiries for further information can be directed to Dr. Mordecai Ezekiel, Economic Adviser, BAE, Room 3054, South Agriculture Building, Washington 25, D.C.